

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** JW <jtbeen@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2026 9:58 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support Small and Urban Farms Tax Relief bill - FOR H7242

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To: House Finance Committee  
Re: Support Small and Urban Farms Tax Relief bill - FOR H7242

I'm writing to bring your attention to a bill affecting many South Kingstown residents and Rhode Island communities.

Over the last 30 years, the number of Rhode Island small and urban farms has grown to ~80 urban farms and 170 small farms, including several in South Kingstown. Benefits provided to their communities and the state: employment; fresh, local food to their communities, local restaurants and food service operations; climate-friendly farming practices that increase soil carbon capture, support biodiversity, and protect groundwater; and education and job training to community members.

Unfortunately, most are under 5 acres - too small to qualify for RI's Farm, Forest and Open Space (FFOS) tax incentives. These incentives were created 40 years ago when RI farms were much larger, and small scale intensive farming was not sustainable.

Two years ago, Senator Mack introduced bill FOR H7242 to update RI FFOS tax incentives to include small and urban farms. This bill will boost small and urban farms' financial sustainability, with a very modest impact on RI tax revenues. It updates RI tax policies to align with growth of sustainable small and urban farms. It specifies that only actual working farms that file IRS Form F-1 can qualify for the tax benefits. All RI Department of Revenue requests to tighten qualifying definitions have been incorporated. It is fully supported by the League of Cities and Towns and Rhode Island Farm Bureau. The bill passed in the House in 2025.

I urge you to support passage of this bill, to strengthen the health and well-being of our South Kingstown residents who rely on local produce from small and urban farms.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Jean Williams, Wakefield RI